

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAURICE D. BLACK,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 24-cv-13417

Honorable Linda V. Parker

v.

HEIDI WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendants.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S MOTION TO COMPEL AND
REQUIRING DEFENDANT PETE HUTSON TO ANSWER OR
OTHERWISE PLEAD**

On December 19, 2024, Plaintiff, through counsel, filed this prisoner civil rights action against Defendants alleging claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (ECF No. 1). Counsel has entered an appearance on behalf of all non-John Doe Defendants, except Pete Hutson (*see* ECF Nos. 9-12), and counsel for those Defendants and Plaintiff stipulated to an order allowing limited discovery (ECF No. 12.) Hutson was personally served with a Summons and a Copy of the Complaint on January 14, 2025. (ECF No. 6 at PageID. 56.)

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, a defendant is not required to file a response to a prisoner’s complaint unless the court orders otherwise. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(g)(1). Plaintiff has filed a motion asking the Court to require Hutson to respond. (ECF No. 13.) As the Court finds that Plaintiff “has a

reasonable opportunity to prevail on the merits[]” of his claims against Hutson, it is granting his request.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff’s motion to compel (ECF No. 13) is **GRANTED** and Hutson shall file a responsive pleading or otherwise respond to Plaintiff’s Complaint on or before **March 28, 2025**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff shall **personally** serve a copy of this Order on Hutson and file a certificate of service.

s/ Linda V. Parker
LINDA V. PARKER
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated: March 10, 2025

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was mailed to counsel of record and/or pro se parties on this date, March 10, 2025, by electronic and/or U.S. First Class mail.

s/Aaron Flanigan
Case Manager